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LETTERS FROM FELLOWS OF THE CENTER

From Nicholas B. Millet

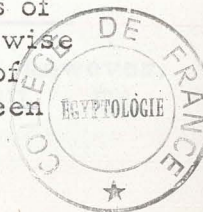
Cairo, December 23, 1959

Winter has settled on Cairo now, and the days have grown cool enough to require a light overcoat in the evenings. The sky is frequently overcast, and a few modest showers have fallen since I last wrote. The country people go about with their heads swathed in long brown scarves, in obedience to a theory that if you keep your head warm, the rest of the body doesn't matter much. With the approach of Christmas the more fashionable shops in Cairo have suddenly burgeoned forth with wreaths, figures of Santa Claus (all rather emaciated to an American eye unaccustomed to the more austere European tradition), and even Christmas trees. These last are usually artificial, since Egypt is naturally short of the real thing. Some people use young tamarisks or branches of tamarisk arranged on an artificial trunk. The result is a very attractive substitute in silvery green.

With the winter have arrived the first hordes of tourists. Most of them are either Americans or Germans -- indeed, so numerous are the Germans that many of the Egyptians proceed on the assumption that any foreigner who looks like a tourist is a German, and professional guides are arming themselves with a knowledge of German in addition to the French and English they already speak. The German courses in commercial and night schools are much frequented, and the Egyptian tourist magazine will now be published in a German edition, as well as in the French and English versions.

In the way of archaeological news, there is not a great deal to report. Most of the activity centers around Nubia, where the Egyptian Government is initiating salvage work on sites to be flooded after the construction of the dam. The Department of Egyptology at Cairo University has opened work at Aniba; the excavations there will be carried out under Dr. Abu Bakr, who will be replaced next semester, it is said, by Dr. Ahmad Fakhry, well-known to many members of the Center from his long visit to the United States a few years past. Alexandria University is also digging, under Dr. Mustapha el-Amr, at Gebel Addah, across the river from Ballana. Gebel Addah is the site of an Arab fortress, but also boasts several rock-cut tombs of the New Kingdom, of which we hope to hear more.

The Government has launched another project, this time in the Delta. A sum of four thousand pounds has been credited to the Department of Antiquities for digs at a series of minor sites in Lower Egypt. If these reveal buildings of any importance, the sites will be reserved as national monuments; otherwise they will be released for cultivation, once any finds made in the course of excavation have been recorded. This program is planned to last for fifteen



years or so, during which a total of a hundred thousand pounds will be put at the disposal of the excavators. Since we know all too little of what there may be in Lower Egypt, particularly along the relatively dry desert margins to east and west, this project gives hope that some clearer picture of the Delta may emerge.

The Department is continuing its reconstruction work in the Luxor temple, where the sagging stonework of the pylon is being reinforced by pouring concrete in the interior. In the course of his work, the Chief Inspector, Dr. Mohammed Abdel Kader Mohammed, discovered the head and shoulders of a large granite statue of Ramesses II. It is guessed, though not yet confirmed, that this belongs to one of the statues found in front of the pylon. *

Hassan Abbas Zaky, Minister of Economy, has just returned from a trip to Luxor, where he met with the local Chamber of Commerce and reviewed the tourist facilities. It has since been announced that steps will be taken to improve the road between the Luxor and Karnak temples and also to improve the lighting facilities. One wishes that some of the other problems of the visitor to Luxor might also be solved. The greatest lack now, as always, is of adequate local transportation, particularly in crossing the river and getting about on the West Bank.

I spent a few days in Luxor recently as a sort of preview for a more extended stay next month. Although the tourist season was not yet properly under way, the facilities were already somewhat strained. I was pleased not to have to make a daily crossing of the river, a problem I avoided by living on the West Bank at the Old Chicago House, now a hotel run by the fiercely mustached and punctiliously hospitable Sheikh Ali Abderrasul, a grandson of the Mohammed Abderrasul who discovered (and lived off) the famous cache of the royal mummies eighty years ago. This hotel is described in all the guide-books as très modeste, a classification it earns by virtue of its lack of electricity and hot water, but it is immaculately clean, airy, and much less afflicted by flies than some of the tourist hotels on the Luxor side of the Nile. The food is excellent and supplied in impossible quantities, which are urged on you in the usual hospitable Arab style, until you feel as if you could never face food again. The whole extensive Abderrasul family is at your disposal -- they will take you where you want to go, show you what you want to see, run down to Cook's to get beer for you, buy your antiquities for you, sell you anything, buy whatever you are willing to part with, in short do anything except rob a tomb for you. The pleasantly primitive nature of the establishment carries one back to travel conditions as they must have been in the early Nineteenth Century, particularly at night, when you return from a midnight walk with the Sheikh and are ceremoniously ushered into the caravanserai by flickering lamps borne by tall, robed Arabs with rifles at their backs. Moreover, if none of the literate members of the family are available when you check in, you may have to write your own police report, a quaint detail which none of the more civilized hotels affords.

The Oriental Institute's work stemming from Chicago House in Luxor had

* See communication from Dr. Wall in Newsletter Thirty-four, where, however, the Ramesside figures in front of the pylon are credited to Ramesses III. - Ed.

already started when I was there, and Elizabeth Thomas had settled there working under the auspices of the Center on her royal tombs project (see Newsletter Thirty-five). Though she had not yet received permission to have opened some of the more inaccessible tombs, she has for the moment plenty to do in the tombs already open. She has managed to get a car from Luxor House for use on the West Bank, which makes getting around much easier.

As I write, Cairo is in the grip of one of its occasional rainstorms -- nothing more than a slight drizzle, but a great nuisance, because life here just isn't geared to this particular kind of natural accident. The tourist trade grinds to a halt, and the dragomans huddle under shelter and glower at the sky. On the whole, however, pedestrians seem to think it's fun; they scamper giggling from building to building and dash across the streets with newspapers over their heads. The myriad street cats of Cairo sit in unusually peaceful rows under public benches, their eternal squabbles temporarily stilled by the weather, and shake their wet paws in disgust. The sailors on the river feluccas crouch under a corner of the slack sail and wait patiently for the certain sun. The only persons who have raincoats, it seems, are the traffic policemen and the occasional skeptical American who doesn't believe everything he reads. Nobody is very impatient, because everybody knows that tomorrow, if not this afternoon, Allah will be compassionate and the sun will shine again.

N. B. Millet

From George T. Scanlon, Director in Cairo

Cairo, January 3, 1960

I am at last settled down to work with Professor Creswell. I have a work-table in an office adjacent to his library and have begun to collect notes both for the tours and for my own research in Muslim military architecture.

A fortnight ago, Professor Creswell obtained permission for me to accompany him on a visit to the northern enclosure of the Cairo Citadel -- a rare privilege, since the area, which is still in use as a barracks and military depot, is habitually closed to visitors. In my previous stay in Cairo I was unable to gain access to the enclosure in spite of eighteen months of continuous effort, but Professor Creswell, who is justly honored by the Egyptians, possessed the magical "open sesame."

The experience was an invaluable one, for the ensemble seems to me the most magnificent piece of military architecture in the world, though as of now I must except China and India, which I have not seen. I was forbidden to take notes, so I had literally to devour the walls and the intricate building pattern of the towers with my eyes. The round towers of Saladin's original walls, built in 1179, did not suffice thirty years later, so his brother al-Adil sliced off the top of each one and saddled it with a square, cruciform chamber-tower, pushing out a set of arrow-slits into doors. Around three hundred years later, the last Mamluk sultans, fearing the vaunted artillery of the invading Ottomans, added a five-foot thickness of covering wall to withstand cannon balls. Thus, Saladin's

gallery within the wall, the so-called dihliz, was in certain places set back eight to ten feet from the new outer face, and the arrow-slits along the dihliz were rendered almost nugatory.

These are just two random observations to be made about a beautiful and complicated structure that embodies architectural techniques and advances from 1180 to 1830. The Citadel is in poor repair and needs to be turned over to competent authorities for restoration, if it is to be fully revealed for what it is, an incomparable specimen of Muslim architecture, the equal of Ibn Tulun's mosque, Gawhar's wall and gates, and the Mamluk monuments. It has to be seen in its entirety to be believed.

Among my other activities, have been two lectures for Members of the Center and their friends (historical background for the field trips), held in the library of the United States Information Service. These covered the period from the Conquest to the advent of the Mamluks. The third, to take place next Friday, will survey the history and accomplishments of the Mamluks.

At the request of Dr. Charles Geddes of the American University, I have given two lectures on the Crusades and the Mamluks to his class in Muslim history, and I also gave an informal talk on Muslim fortifications to an encouragingly large and responsive audience of over one hundred members of the German colony.

In my last letter, I mentioned that Professor Creswell's latest volume of his monumental work on Muslim architecture had appeared. To celebrate the occasion, President McLain of the American University, in conjunction with the School of Oriental Studies, gave a tea in his honor. The number of Egyptian archaeologists and art historians in attendance, trained by Professor Creswell and representing the strength of the Islamic section of the Department of Antiquities, formed an added testimonial, if any were needed, to the importance of his life work. I cannot believe, however, that he will have been suitably honored until a worthy Festschrift has been offered to him. A group of his students and friends, among whom I am fortunate to number myself, has taken this matter under consideration. But more of this later.

Professor Creswell sails for England in a few days to superintend the publication of his mammoth bibliography on Islamic art and architecture, which runs to more than twelve thousand items. Earlier in the month, he was invited to attend a symposium on Arabian archaeology and architecture, sponsored by the League of Arab States and held in the city of Fas (Fez). While there, he fulfilled a life-long ambition by being permitted to enter and study the famous Qayriwin mosque, where he was apparently able to confirm some long-held guesses concerning certain aspects of the vaulting and aisles. At the same meeting, Dr. Ahmad Fakhry of Cairo University revealed the position and extent of the early South Arabian buildings, dating from the ninth and eighth centuries B. C., in Yaman, in the neighborhood of Ma'rib. After a conversation with him yesterday, I gather that this material is to be published later this year in Museon, in conjunction with a complementary study by Ryckmans.

Dr. Myron Bement Smith will terminate a month's stay in Cairo sometime this week. While here he lectured in Cairo and Alexandria on "Safavid Architecture in Isfahan" and "Mughal (Chagatai) Architecture of Hindustan." His illustrations for both lectures more than confirmed the highly regarded

quality of his photography. He participated in consultations with the Department of Antiquities about the establishment in Cairo of photographic archives covering all phases of Islamic art and archaeology. Yesterday, he delivered a private lecture at the home of President McLain on the growth and present status of Oriental studies in the United States.

A group of Yugoslav Egyptologists and Islamicists have been in Cairo for the past two months at the invitation of the Egyptian Government. They are in residence at Cairo University for research and study. This seems to be a prelude to establishing close cultural relations between Egypt and Yugoslavia and perhaps to setting up a Yugoslavian institute. As has been noted in previous Newsletters, the Czech and Polish Governments have both recently set up institutes for historical, literary, and archaeological research in Cairo.

The Institut Français, with Professor Daumas as director, is again open, and its press is resuming publication; a volume of studies dedicated to Gaston Wiet, former director of the Islamic Museum, will shortly appear as a number of the Institute's Bulletin. With the German, Swiss, Spanish, and Italian institutes in full operation, Cairo is resuming its former tempo as a center of research. It is to be hoped that increased interest on the part of our Government may someday make it possible to support a comparable American Institute. The American Research Center in Egypt does the best that it can with the limited means at its disposal, but it has no fixed establishment or personnel, and our scholars who visit Egypt lose much time in achieving the right to stay, a place to work and live, and the courage to speak with an equal voice in the cultural life of this great city.

Professor Louis Massignon has been in Cairo for the past fortnight attending the sessions of the Arab Academy, whose president, Ahmad Lutfi al-Sayyid, has recently been seriously stricken. Mr. John Parker of St. Anthony's Study Center, Oxford University, will be here until the end of February, pursuing studies in the modern political movements of the Near East. Professor David Cowan, recently of the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London and now in charge of the British School of Arab Studies in Shimlan, Lebanon, visited Cairo last week. He is the author of the valuable philological work, Modern Literary Arabic. As for journalists, they have ranged all the way from Miss Frieda Utley to Walter Lippman, whose splendid article in one of the early December numbers of the London Observer is highly to be recommended. Any number of bright young things have appeared on the scene as prospective authors of books on the "modern Middle East;" none that I have met so far has shown the slightest interest in either language or history. It is to be hoped that their photographs may prove to be rewarding.

On the whole, Cairo has assumed an easier air, one of confidence and work. On the cultural (and indirectly on the academic) side, Allah must be praised for the person and accomplishment of Mr. Sarwat Okasha, Minister of Culture and National Guidance, who has renewed the cosmopolitan commitments of this cross-cultured city. His is a mind amenable to experiment no less than to the traditional forms of endeavor, such as archaeology. The Leningrad Ballet is here now and is having a roaring success; a superb group of Yugoslav folk-dancers captivated the town; the American pianist, Michael Ponti, appealing to a more limited audience, was nevertheless very well received. A complex of schools dedicated to theater, film, and music, and the complementary

minor arts has been established; and, as a result of a series of expertly conducted and concluded cultural agreements, a host of visiting experts are, or will be, on hand to enliven and instruct an abounding native talent. Mr. Okasha has firmly hitched the cultural drive to the nation's economic development. As an American whose heart has long been resident in the Arab East, I am glad that the United States is now participating in both on a non-exclusive basis.

George T. Scanlon

Cairo, February 1, 1960.

Mr. Eliot clearly defined himself as a gentleman of the Northern Clime when he called April the cruelest month, when one mixes memory with desire. Here in the Mediterranean it can only be January, when one mixes memory of that redeeming ten-month sun with a desire for warmth and wool. It is so difficult to lose the illusion of year-round basking (and the inhabitants and tourist directors give credence to no other), that a simple chill wind or ten-degree drop in temperature has the psychological force here of a gale or a plummet below zero. The craftier Egyptian hides a sweater 'neath that flowing gallibeyeh, the shrewd bourgeois gathers to his ample fireplace, and the more fortunate wends southward towards the balm of Aswan. It has been a mean month of cold, rain, and clouds, of a sun so desultory as to be fugitive, when one thinks of ague and shrivelling marrow, of universal central heating, gloves and warm brews. Withal, life has proceeded on its oriental path, and today's brightness was such as to make one forget chilblains and join the budding vines in confirming the illusion.

The Center's activities proceed apace. Mr. Millet has progressed to Luxor, while I have been conducting our business here in Cairo. I presented the last of my three lectures on the Muslim history of Egypt at the American Embassy, or rather at the United States Information Service library. My audience was just under thirty. These talks were conceived as a background to the tours to the related monuments. As of yesterday, I completed four of these Sunday morning excursions. The first was to the Coptic Museum and the walls of Babylon, the fort which held out against the Muslim conqueror of Egypt, 'Amr b. al-'As, for seven months before capitulating. The Director of the Museum, Dr. Pahor Labib, received the group most kindly, giving them the general background of the Coptic and Byzantine culture of Egypt before the Muslim conquest. In the Museum itself, we directed our attention to the early work in stone, stucco, wood, and metal upon whose forms and motifs so much later Islamic work was to be based.

The following Sunday we visited the site of the mosque of 'Amr, the oldest Islamic shrine in Egypt, and the ruins of the city of Fustat, built upon the camp-city instituted by the conqueror to facilitate his siege of Babylon, and which later became the capital of the Muslim provinces of Egypt, replacing Alexandria. Our third tour took us to the mosque of Ibn Tulun, and, in addition to appreciating this magnificent piece of Muslim architecture, the group could apprehend the growth of a vital center of Islamic civilization. Yesterday, I took the group, now numbering forty, to and through and upon the famous Fatimid walls of Cairo, whose masonry remains unparalleled in the medieval world and whose engineering and military significance continue to

astonish. Coupled with the mosque of Al-Hakim, whose northeast wall is incorporated into the wall of Cairo, and whose northern minaret is upheld by an imposing salient, also incorporated into the plan of the wall, the mosque as a whole therefore being at hand for explanation from the parapet of the wall, these walls and gates afford an excellent vantage point for an analysis of the exciting Fatimid addition to the city, the royal quarter of al-Qahira, suburban to the city of 'Amr b. al-'As and Ibn Tulun. It is from this name, al-Qahira, that the present word "Cairo" derives.

Although all talk and attention is directed towards the problem of the Nubian antiquities, and rightly so, culminating in the present visit of the Director-General of UNESCO, Dr. Veronese, to coordinate the plans of that body with the tempo and scope of the United Arab Republic's planning bodies, Islamic antiquities are not unduly overlooked or neglected. Indeed, the incipient growth of the city of Aswan, to result from the work-force and service personnel attendant to the High Dam, requires a second wide road to run parallel to that along the Nile and has focused attention on the historic grave-yard through which this new road must run. This grave-yard contains a number of domed vaults of the Fatimid period. The Islamic Section of the Department of Antiquities has a team of archaeologists and architects on the site to excavate and photograph these tombs in their entirety. Upon analysis of their reports, certain of the tombs will be left intact (at either end of the cemetery), peculiarly enough) while the others, all scaled, photographed and minutely recorded, will be torn down or removed to make way for the new road and city development.

Next year's budget of the Department envisages three major works in the Islamic section. The Northern Enclosure of the Citadel, which I discussed in my last letter, is to be cleared, renovated and restored. This long-delayed work will bring to unencumbered light one of the major military monuments of the Middle Ages, of its type unequalled among the edifices of Western, Arabic Islam. (Those who would give the palm to the Krak des Chevaliers in Syria will not find me in great opposition, though the problem of site, architects and masons, origins, and variety of internal design must be considered before any award of primacy is made). However, the totality of the Citadel as an incorporated bastion and royal (i. e. Mamluk) residence will not be gleaned until comparable work is promised and executed in the lower Stables Area, at present, like most of the Northern Enclosure, a military compound.

The second project is almost as exciting. It is proposed to tear down the houses west of the maydan fronting the Bab al-Nasr and Bab al-Futuh (cleared at Creswell's behest some years ago) and reveal the continuation of the Northern Wall of Cairo in its entirety. Thus from the main artery of Sharia Faruq, from which one turns into a narrow street to get to the cleared maydan fronting the wall, one will have an unobstructed view of the entire northern ramparts. Some parts of this wall can now be seen when one proceeds down the narrow street mentioned above. When completed, this project may clear up the problem of how much more of the wall is to be attributed to the Fatimid instigator of the work, Badr al-Gamali, and which part represents Saladin's later repair and additions. At some later date, when the foci of Cairo's population and retail commerce have shifted, it might be possible to duplicate this work on the South Wall, or at least on those sections incumbent upon the Bab al-Zuwayla.

St. Catherine's Monastery in Sinai will be the site of the third project. Major repair work will be done on the mosque, which contains the oldest carved pulpit (minbar) in Egypt. The positions and dimensions of the other mosques, known to have been built there, or at least present there, in various periods, will be ascertained, bringing this site more fully into the conspectus of Muslim art and architecture, as has been already accomplished for the Christian era. Preliminary inspection of the possibilities leads the authorities to believe that a significant addition will be made to the corpus of Fatimid buildings, a rather meagre one for a period of such artistic efflorescence.

In January two conferences of consuming interest were given. In the first, Dr. Walid Arafat of the University of London discussed the complex problem of the authenticity of the poetry of Hassan b. Thabit, a man whose life and work spanned the pre-Islamic period and that of the life of the Prophet. It is his verse which is most often cited in the biography of the Prophet, the Sirah of Ibn Ishaq, and some of these citations have appeared to scholars to be neither likely nor apposite. The Sirah itself, a work of a second century Hijrah savant, comes to us in a third century rescension. Thus some verses ascribed to Hassan might represent later accretions, incorporated for a number of interesting and highly speculative reasons, reasons which mirror the conflicts within the early Islamic community. From a nice appreciation of the placing of the verses and the intricacies of their diction, Dr. Arafat was able to throw some new light on this absorbing literary, religious, philological, and political complexity.

Père de Vaux of the École Biblique in Jerusalem gave two illustrated lectures on the combined subject of the textual relevance of the Dead Sea Scrolls and the archaeological basis of the Qumran community. This conference drew the largest audience I have seen in Cairo, and at the second lecture, Père de Vaux kept his audience in their seats for well over two hours, part of the time devoted to anecdotes about the scrolls and the excavation of the community site while the projector was being repaired. A most singular performance. Perhaps the most noteworthy part of it will prove, upon publication, to be his quietly devastating critique of the theories of Dupont-Sommer and John Allegro. When all the texts are published it will be the fascinating work of some future exegetist to disengage derivation from revelation vis-à-vis the genesis of Christianity.

Apropos of Islamic history, two important pieces of scholarship have recently been delivered to the printers. This first involves two sections of the hitherto unpublished chronicle of Ibn Aybak, a fourteenth century Cairene scholar. The first volume, edited by Dr. Salah al-din al-Munajjid of the Manuscript Section of the Arab League, covers the reigns of the Fatimid rulers of Egypt; while the second, edited by Dr. Römer of the German Institute in Cairo, is an epitome of the history of the Mamluk Sultans up to the date of the author's death. Heretofore this material has been available only in a manuscript, thought to be unique, in the National Library in Cairo. When the intervening section on the Ayyubids (Saladin's dynasty) is published, scholars will have a continuous chronicle to complement the works of Maqrizi and Taghri-Birdi, both of whom may have had recourse to the work of Ibn Aybak. And Dr. Hilmy Ahmad has completed the second half of his edition of the Raudatayn of Abu Shama a primary source on the advent and accomplishments of Saladin. This edition, taking advantage of a Copenhagen manuscript, supersedes the Bulaq edition, which was based solely on a Cairo manuscript.

WORK ON THE ROYAL TOMBS AT THEBES

Miss Elizabeth Thomas, who is surveying the royal tombs of the Theban necropolis under the auspices of the Center, reports many changes in the Theban scene. The road from the Nile to the Temple of Karnak has been straightened and surfaced, and grass and flowers have been planted along the way. Street lights line the route from Luxor to Karnak, and the new casino, mentioned in previous Newsletters as among the plans for improvement of the site is now a building opposite the great sanctuary of Amun. In the necropolis, the roads from the Valley of the Kings to the Queens' Valley and Medinet Habu have been widened and surfaced, though here with less intrusion of modernity than might have been expected.

Miss Thomas' own work has proved difficult, though on the whole rewarding. She has found many of the previously published plans of royal tombs by no means dependable and has worked out corrections and done extensive photography in those that are accessible. She has been assured by the Department of Antiquities that she may soon receive a favorable reply to her request for opening some of the tombs at present closed to visitors. One of her lacks is the absence of a good map of the Theban necropolis, particularly of certain of the cliffs and wadis containing burials of members of royal families. The job, moreover, requires mountaineering skill and equipment. For much of the investigation, ropes and ladders are essential. Even the longest ladders available are sometimes inadequate, and the transport of equipment represents no mean problem.

IN MEMORIUM

It is with great regret that we must announce the death on February 2, 1960, of Mr. Lauriston Ward, a valued Trustee of the Center and one of its early members. Mr. Ward was formerly curator of Asiatic archaeology at the Peabody Museum and lecturer on anthropology and Asiatic prehistory at Harvard. Of recent years he has been occupied in founding and organizing the Council for Old World Archaeology, of which he was president. Always faithful in attendance at meetings of members and trustees, he will be greatly missed for his active interest and sound advice.

We must also announce, with regrettable tardiness, the death of Mr. Frederick F. Brewster of New Haven, late in 1958. Mr. Brewster became a life member of the Center in 1953.

PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE CENTER

Bowen, Richard LeBaron, "Experimental Nautical Research: Third Millenium B. C. Egyptian Sails," in The Mariner's Mirror, 45, 1949, p. 332-337; illus.

Mr. Bowen, a textile engineer by profession and an able archaeologist by avocation, is a recent member of the Center, who has been engaged for some years, among other things, in a study of the history of boats and sails. One of the puzzles to modern sailors and marine architects has been to estimate the accomplishments of the ships pictured in Old Kingdom reliefs, which show a single tall, square sail spread between a yard and a boom and hung from a sheer mast placed in the forward part of the vessel "well forward of the centre of lateral resistance of the hull." Through actual experiment, Mr. Bowen has

come to the conclusion that such boats could never have sailed too far from the path of the wind and must have resorted to oars and paddles when the wind was not aft. His article, inadequately summarized here, is packed with details of interest both to modern sailors and to students of Egyptian archaeology.

-----, "The Origins of Fore-and-Aft Rigs," in The American Neptune, XIX, 1959, p. 155-199; 274-306; illus.

This well-documented and technically informed article traces the development of the rigs of vessels from prehistoric times down to the present. It is rich in illustrations from ancient and modern sources and includes distribution maps indicating the spread of various types of rigs. Like the article mentioned above it should prove very useful to archaeologists interested in the history of seafaring in the Eastern Mediterranean.

-----, "River Craft of the Lower Nile," in The American Neptune, XII, 1952, p. 45-51.

Though published some years ago, this record of types of boats in current use on the Nile, which gives their Arabic names and describes methods of construction and navigation, should be recalled to the attention of our readers. Of great interest is a brief discussion of the navigation of the cataracts. For this purpose a boat called a nuggar is still in use between the Third and Fifth cataracts. This is often "frameless and built in ways very similar to those of ancient Egyptian hulls of three to four thousand years ago. Thus this short stretch of the Nile, protected by the cataracts, preserves techniques and styles that originated in remote Egyptian times."

-----, "Some Notes on Boat Bailers," in The Mariner's Mirror, 45, 1959, p. 255-260; illus.

While Egyptian determinatives used in the hieroglyphic writing of the verb "to bail," as found in the Pyramid Texts, show a simple bowl, a wooden scoop with handle of the First Dynasty, carved from a single piece of wood, which is almost identical with bailers found in Italy and Portugal today, was excavated by Petrie at Tarkhan. This is only one facet of a brief discussion, which gives evidence suggesting that apparently two forms of bailers, or scoops, were used from ancient times to the present and that these types were widely distributed.

-----, and Frank P. Albright, Archaeological Discoveries in South Arabia (Publications of the American Foundation for the Study of Man II) Baltimore, 1958. This volume, dealing as it does with the incense lands, is of importance to students of Egyptian civilization. Mr. Bowen has contributed a study of the ancient irrigation system of Qataban, of value to those concerned with problems of irrigation in early times, as well as a chapter on "Ancient Trade Routes in South Arabia." Gus W. Van Beek discusses the "Ancient Frankincense-Producing Areas." A review of the work by F. V. Winnett appears in the American Journal of Archaeology, 63, 1959, p. 318-320.

Ettinghausen, Richard, "New Light on Early Animal Carpets," in Aus der Welt des Islamischen Kunst (Festschrift für Ernst Kühnel), 1960, p. 93-116; illus.,

From fragments scattered in American and European collections, from rugs pictured on early Western paintings and those shown on miniature paintings of the Near East, and from the rare complete or nearly complete rugs in the Konia Museum, Dr. Ettinghausen gleans material for a discussion of the dates and origins of carpets with knotted piles, particularly those with designs representing birds. Parts I and IV of his paper are concerned with fragments found in Egypt and Part II illustrates rugs pictured on an Iranian manuscript preserved in the National Library in Cairo.

Miles, George C., "The Iconography of Umayyad Coinage" (Review of Vols. I and II of A Catalogue of the Muhammadan Coins in the British Museum, by John Walker, London, 1941, 1956), in Ars Orientalis III, 1959, p. 209-213; plate.

This review of two monumental volumes draws attention to the importance of early Islamic coinage to the scholar not generally familiar with numismatics "as documents of Islamic history, archaeology, and, to a certain extent, art." In addition to summarizing Dr. Walker's work, which is not a mere catalogue but practically a corpus of the known coins of the Umayyad period, Dr. Miles has been able to add references to works that have appeared since Walker's publication, especially of Volume I, and to furnish a plate of previously unpublished specimens of Umayyad coins acquired by the American Numismatic Society in the past decade. He concludes that the introductions to Walker's two volumes "should be required reading for every student of the Umayyad period."

-----, "Some New Light on the History of Kirman in the First Century of the Hijrah," in The World of Islam (Studies in Honour of Philip K. Hitti), London and New York, 1959, p. 85-98; plate.

Contemporary source material for the history of the Arab conquest and early administration of Persia and Central Asia is so scanty that the evidence provided by the transitional Arab-Sasanian coinage issued in the region by Caliphs, governors, and rebel leaders is particularly valuable. To the coins of this type published in 1941 in the first volume of Dr. John Walker's revised Catalogue of the Muhammadan Coins in the British Museum, Dr. Miles has been able to add a number of formerly unknown issues and types, which add to "our knowledge of an obscure but extremely interesting period of history."

Shepherd, Dorothy G., "An Early Tiraz from Egypt," in Bulletin of the Cleveland Museum of Art, 47, 1, January, 1960, p. 7-14; illus.

Miss Shepherd, Curator of Textiles and Near Eastern Art, describes here an important tapestry-woven panel of the first half of the ninth century from Egypt and possibly from a workshop in the Fayyum. While the piece bears a Kufic inscription, the latter gives neither the date nor the location of the tiraz, or workshop, in which it is said to have been made. Through careful analysis, Miss Shepherd deduces the probable origin and date of the textile.

----- and W. B. Henning, "Zandaniji Identified?" in Aus der Welt der Islamischen Kunst (Festschrift für Ernst Kühnel), 1960, p. 15-40; illus., plates.

While references to cloths and garments made in the various weaving centers of Islam abound in the writings of early Arab geographers and historians, few of the textiles of which they speak have ever been identified. Miss Shepherd has been fortunate in discovering on the back of the so-called "lamb-stuff" in the Collegiate Church of Notre Dame at Huy, Belgium, an inscription with the name "Zandaniji," derived from the town of Zandane in the neighborhood of Bukhara and designating a cloth described by the historian Narshakhi of the mid-tenth century as a fine fabric used by nobles and rulers, which rivalled brocade in costliness. The inscription, read by Dr. Henning, is in Sogdian, written in a style which he attributes to seventh-century Bukhara. On the basis of this inscription, Miss Shepherd is able to assign a group of textiles similar in color, design, and method of weaving, to the looms of Samarkand, probably just prior to the Mohammedan conquest of the region.

Vermeule, Cornelius C., III, "Hellenistic and Roman Cuirassed Statues. The Evidence of Paintings and Reliefs in the Chronological Development of Cuirass Types," in Berytus XIII, 1959, p. 1-82; 26 plates.

This article is a continuation of publication of the cuirassed Trajan in the Fogg Art Museum (G. M. A. Hanfmann and C. C. Vermeule, "A New Trajan," in American Journal of Archaeology 61, 1957, p. 223-237).

Together, the two publications form a corpus of the known commemorative sculptures of the cuirassed type. A valuable preface discusses the purpose of the figures, their chronology, materials, and ornament, and outlines the history of the cuirass. The work contains many points of interest for those who concern themselves with the art and civilization of Hellenistic and Graeco-Roman Egypt.